(Figures in Million pieces)

Sl. No.	Name of the Unit	Existing annual Capacity	Production achieved during 1996-97
1.	Currency Note Press, Nashik.	4000	3308
2.	Bank Note Press, Dewas.	1875	1795
3.	Note Presses under construction by RBI		
	(a) Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Ltd., Mysore (Karnatak) (b) Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Ltd., Salboni (West Bengal)	One line of Machine already commissioned and started production from June '96 (Mysore Press) and December '96 (Salboni Press). Till date, Mysore Press produced 790 million pieces and Salboni press produced 656 million pieces.	
	PS: These Presses together will have a capacity of 9900 million pieces per annum when fully commissioned by end of December, 1999.		
4.	India Govt. Mint, Mumbai.	750	401
5.	India Govt. Mint, Calcutta.	750	468
6.	India Govt. Mint, Hyderabad	400	313
7.	India Govt. Mint, Noida	2000	382

(c) Following measures have been taken to meet the shortage of coins/currency notes and to improve the capacity of presses/mints:—

(1) Coinisation of lower denomination notes of Re. 1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 and diversion of the capacity so released for printing notes of higher denominations.

(2) Modernisation of the two note printing presses at Nashik and Dewas.

(3) Setting up of two new note-printing presses under RBI, i.e. one at mysore (Karnataka) and other in Salboni (West Bengal) with an annual capacity of 4950 million pieces each.

(4) Import of 3,600 million pieces of printed notes and 1000 million pieces of coins from abroad, as a one time measure.

Service Tax

614. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a service tax has been imposed on tour operators/agents, caterers etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the imposition of service tax will reduce tourism in the country; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Vide Section 88 of the Finance Act, 1997 service tax at the rate of 5% has been imposed, inter alia, on the service rendered by a tour operator and an out door caterer. While the levy on the former has been brought into effect from 1.9.97, in the case of the latter the levry is effective

from 1.8.97. In the case of a tour operator, the person responsible for collecting the service tax is the person who holds a tourist permit granted under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 or the rules made thereunder while in the case of out door caterers, the person responsible for collecting service tax is the person undertaking the catering service. The value of taxable service has been defined as the gross amount charged by the tour operator from the client for services in relation to a tour and includes charges for any accommodation, food or any other facilities provided in relation to such tour. In the case of an out door caterer shall be the gross amount charged by such caterer from the client for services in relation to such catering including the charges for food, edible preparations, alcohol and non-alcoholic beverages or crockery and similarly articles or accouterments provided to such client for any charges or on any occasion.

(c) and (d) In addition to the nominal rate of service tax, for computing the tax an abatement of 60% of the value of the taxable services has been provided in the case of a package tour conducted by a tour operator and an abatement of 90% has been provided in cases where the tour operator renders only the services of booking or arranging accommodation. Similarly, in the case of out door caterers an abatement of 50% of the value of taxable services has been provided. Considering the above factors this service tax is not likely to have any adverse impact on the tourism in the country.

Corruption Cases in Ministry of Coal

615. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of corruption, dishonesty and assets disproportionate to the income of civil servants investigated by the Vigilance Department of the Ministry during 1995–96;

(b) the number of officers (Grade-wise) involved in such cases;

(c) the number of complaints received for corruption and dishonesty during 1995–96 and the action taken thereon;

(d) whether the Vigilance initiate any action *suo moto* against the staff suspected to be dishonest and corrupt;

(e) whether the Ministry have made any review of the powers of the vigilance section under their control; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) No case against civil servants in Ministry of Coal has been investigated by the Vigilance Unit of the Ministry of Coal in the year 1995–96.

(c) No such complaint has been received.

(d) The Vigilance Unit can initiate action, *suo moto*, if reliable information is received.

(e) and (f) The Ministry follows the instructions of Department of Personnel and Training and Central Vigilance Commission regarding powers and functions of Vigilance Section. The question of review of the power by the Ministry does not arise.

[Translation]

Import of Edible Oils

616. DR. SAHEBRAO SUKRAM BAGUL :
DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of edible oil imported during each of the last three years and the details thereof;

(b) the foreign exchange spent by the Government on this import during the said period; and

(c) the reasons for importing the edible oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) The quantity of vegetable Oil Fixed (Edible) imported and the C.I.F. value of imports thereof during the last three financial years 1994–95, 1995–96 and 1996–97 are as under:—

Year	Quantity (Thousand tonnes)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1994–95	347	624
1995–96	1062	2262
1996–97	1287	2926

(Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta)

(c) There has been a continuous gap between the demand for edible oils and its availability from the indigenous sources, for a number of years. Import of edible oils, has therefore, been resorted to with a view to making this commodity of mass consumption easily available to the consumers at reasonable prices.